

Applicants : Dirk Lichtblau et al.
Serial No. : Not Yet Known
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REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 21-71, without prejudice, to reduce the filing fee. Accordingly claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following documents which are listed on Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit A**) and are also listed below.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, this Information Disclosure Statement should be entered and considered.

This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 10/194,089, filed July 11, 2002 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/903,049, filed July 11, 2001. Copies of the documents listed below as items 1-13 have previously been submitted to, or cited by, the U.S. Patent Office in connection with Serial No. 10/194,089. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the previously submitted documents are not provided.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,981,688, issued January 1, 1991, Ayroles et al.;

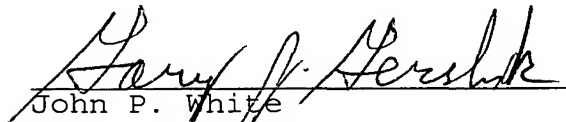
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2. U.S. Patent No. 5,399,348, issued March 21, 1995, Schwabe;
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,512,286, issued April 30, 1996, Schwabe;
4. U.S. Patent No. 6,117,431, issued September 12, 2000, Ramazanov et al.;
5. U.S. Patent No. 6,143,725, issued November 7, 2000, Vasella et al.;
6. U.S. Patent No. 6,187,314, issued February 13, 2001, Xie et al.;
7. U.S. Patent No. 6,221,356, issued April 24, 2001, Junsheng;
8. U.S. Patent No. 6,274,621, issued August 14, 2001, Drieu;
9. U.S. Patent No. 5,389,370, issued February 14, 1995, O'Reilly et al.;
10. U.S. Patent No. 6,030,621, issued February 29, 2000, De Long et al.;
11. U.S. Patent No. 6,174,531, issued January 16, 2001, Zhang et al.; and
12. U.S. Patent No. 6,328,999, issued December 11, 2001, Schwabe; and
13. WO 02/083158, Societe De Conseils De Recherches et D'Applications Scientifiques.

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Applicants request that the Examiner review the references and make them of record in the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary J. Gershik", is written over a horizontal line.

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